



Task-based design and implementation, and discipline-informed language education in contexts of migration, multilingualism and large enrolment.

October 15-16, 2026
University of Siena
Presidio Mattioli
via P.A. Mattioli 10 - 53100 Siena

PROGRAMME

The programme includes 26 selected presentations, distributed across two days: 12 presentations on Day 1 and 12 presentations on Day 2. The conference will also feature a poster slam and a roundtable on *TBLT in Italy*, bringing together six invited speakers to discuss current perspectives, experiences, and future directions for task-based language teaching in Italy. The keynote lectures will be delivered by Giuseppe Balirano, Rod Ellis and Rosemary Erlam, alongside invited lectures by Carmen Argondizzo, Sabrina Machetti and Nick Saville.

Wi-Fi Access

Network: **UnisiConference**

Password: **cunctioms**

Please note that this password is valid only from 11 to 18 October 2026.

DAY 1
October 15, 2026

8:45-9:15	Registration		
9:15-10:00	<i>Welcome and greetings</i> (Room C, floor 0) Roberto Di Pietra, Rector of the University of Siena Alessandra Viviani, Head of the Department of Political and International Sciences Cesare Zanca, President of the University Language Centre of the University of Siena Emilia Petrocelli, Conference Chair		
10:00-11:00	<i>Keynote Lecture</i> (Room C, floor 0) – Chair: Emilia Di Martino Giuseppe Balirano: University of Naples “L’Orientale”, President of the Italian Association of English Studies (AIA) <i>The changing role of English in the Italian university: task-based design for discipline-informed language education in the age of AI</i>		
11:00-11:30	Coffee break		
11:30-13:00	Parallel sessions		
	<table><tr><td> Session 1A (Room C, floor 0) <i>Task design, engagement and interaction with young learners</i> Chair: Elisa Ghia Lara Bryfonski, Caitlyn Pineault <i>Beyond “tasks” and “non-tasks”: a new typology for understanding activity design in TBLT</i> Elena Nuzzo, Diego Cortés Velázquez, Sergio Conti, Nicola Brocca, Anna Romano <i>Digitally mediated TBLT for young learners: task design and teacher perspectives from the OPTIMIST project</i> Piet Murre, Maria de Visser <i>Combining cultural content and vocabulary acquisition: an empirical study with young learners</i> </td><td> Session 1B (Room D, floor 0) <i>Tasks, multilingual repertoires and learner participation</i> Chair: Luca Cilibrasi Libor Stepanek <i>Task-based communication in a multilingual higher education setting: designing international collaborative courses</i> Federica Ceccoli <i>Translation as task and interaction in multilingual classrooms</i> Shreya Ghosh <i>Impact of using UN’s sustainable development goals as speaking topics on the reported FLA of high school students</i> </td></tr></table>	Session 1A (Room C, floor 0) <i>Task design, engagement and interaction with young learners</i> Chair: Elisa Ghia Lara Bryfonski, Caitlyn Pineault <i>Beyond “tasks” and “non-tasks”: a new typology for understanding activity design in TBLT</i> Elena Nuzzo, Diego Cortés Velázquez, Sergio Conti, Nicola Brocca, Anna Romano <i>Digitally mediated TBLT for young learners: task design and teacher perspectives from the OPTIMIST project</i> Piet Murre, Maria de Visser <i>Combining cultural content and vocabulary acquisition: an empirical study with young learners</i>	Session 1B (Room D, floor 0) <i>Tasks, multilingual repertoires and learner participation</i> Chair: Luca Cilibrasi Libor Stepanek <i>Task-based communication in a multilingual higher education setting: designing international collaborative courses</i> Federica Ceccoli <i>Translation as task and interaction in multilingual classrooms</i> Shreya Ghosh <i>Impact of using UN’s sustainable development goals as speaking topics on the reported FLA of high school students</i>
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13:00-14:00	Lunch break		

14:00-15:00	Keynote lecture (Room C, floor 0) – Chair: Letizia Cirillo Rosemary Erlam, University of Auckland <i>Tasks and teachers: understanding and implementing task-based language teaching in classroom practice</i>
15:00-16:00	Poster slam session (Room C, floor 0) – Chair: Letizia Cirillo <i>From task design to multilingual, professional and intercultural TBLT contexts</i> Ariadna Moral-Amarilla, Júlia Barón <i>TaskGen and pragmatics: a step beyond in the creation of pragmatics tasks</i> Lidia Calabrò, Maria Licia Sotgiu, Liliana Vocale <i>Assessing Italian SL among international university students through scenario-based tasks</i> Stephen O’Connell <i>Putting the principles of TBLT into practice: helping asylum seekers in Ireland access healthcare</i> Bridget Fomundam, David Walthall <i>Multilingual music, intercultural mediation and AI-supported songwriting: task-based creativity in university language education</i> Diana Tarasova <i>Pre-service teachers in TBLT classroom: beliefs and practices</i>
16:00-16:15	Poster showcase and Q&A (continues through coffee break)
16:15-16:45	Coffee break

16:45-18:15		Parallel sessions	
	Session 1C (Room C, floor 0) <i>Digital environments, AI and immersive task-based learning</i> Chair: Giulia Staggini Federico Valente <i>Informal digital exposure and task-based learning: reconceptualising language learning in digitally mediated contexts</i> Corné Ferreira-van der Wind, Maayke Langendoen-Heijboer <i>AI-generated texts and task-based reading in vocational education: an intervention study on reading motivation</i> Yukie Saito, Shiori Tsuda <i>Virtual reality and AI affordances for TBLT: a case study on English as a lingua franca</i>	Session 1D (Room D, floor 0) <i>Task-based approaches to ESP and professional communication</i> Chair: Luca Baratta Jacqueline Aiello <i>The communications campaign sprint: a pilot TBLT pedagogical intervention in an ESP course</i> Francesca Costa, Valentina Morgana <i>Bridging ESP and EMI through TBLT</i> ~~Mouassine Fatima Ezzahra, Mrabti Mounya~~ ~~<i>Task-based language teaching in English for agronomy purposes: effects on learner engagement and disciplinary communication in Moroccan higher education</i>~~	
19:45	Social dinner , restaurant <i>Il Tufo</i> , Piazza del Campo, Siena		
DAY 2 October 16, 2026			
9:00-9:30	Invited lecture (Room C, floor 0) – Chair: Cesare Zanca Carmen Argondizzo, University of Calabria, President of the Italian Association of University Language Centres (AICLU) <i>When task-based learning calls for sustainable actions and moments for reflection</i>		
9:30-10:40	Round table: <i>What becomes of a task? Voices, perspectives and experiences from the Italian context</i> (Room C, floor 0) Paolo Della Putta in dialogue with Stefania Ferrari, Valentina Morgana, Elena Nuzzo, Emilia Petrocelli		
10:40-11:00	Coffee break		

DAY 2
October 16, 2026

11:00-12:00	Keynote lecture (Room C, floor 0) – Chair: Emilia Petrocelli Rod Ellis, Curtin University <i>Options in the design of a task-based language teaching curriculum: an educational perspective</i>
12:00-13:30	Parallel sessions
Session 2A (Room C, floor 0) <i>TBLT, Italian L2 and interaction</i> Chair: Paolo Della Putta Silvia Sordella <i>Digital animation as a complex task: interaction and mediation processes in an L2 laboratory</i> Agnieszka Pakula, Borbála Samu <i>Task-based activities to improve oral skills in peer tutoring for academic Italian</i> Anna De Marco, Stefania Ferrari, Alice Ranza <i>Rethinking spoken corpora for TBLT</i>	Session 2B (Room D, floor 0) - <i>Task design, materials and multimodal mediation</i> Chair: Valentina Tomassini Roger Gilabert, Joan Castellví, Elisabet Comelles, Vera Trager, Gina G. Arnold, Kerry Brennan, Mayya Levkina <i>Understanding task design: a mixed-methods approach to measuring teachers' choices</i> Tizian Joseph Ruckenbauer <i>Tasks in Spanish as a second language: a comparative analysis of textbooks edited in Spain and Germany</i> Andry Sophocleous <i>Task-based multimodal design for learner engagement and agency in teenage EFL classrooms</i>
13:30-14:30	Lunch break

14:30-16:00	Parallel sessions	
	Session 2C (Room C, floor 0) - <i>CLIL, EMI and disciplinary discourse: designing tasks for content and language learning</i> Chair: Vanessa Marcella Gina G. Arnold, Roger Gilabert, Helena Roquet <i>Rethinking task design for CLIL contexts: an analysis of teacher-designed tasks from a TBLT lens</i> Sima Khezlou, Christiane Dalton-Puffer <i>Training pre-task planning in CLIL classrooms: effects on second language speaking task performance and outcome</i> Chiara Storace <i>Computational CLIL and disciplinary discourse: how task structure shapes higher-order language use in lower secondary classrooms</i>	Session 2D (Room D, floor 0) - <i>Higher education, AI literacy and discipline-informed language education</i> Chair: Camilla De Riso Natalia Dolgova <i>Using needs analysis for creating specialised graduate courses in the English for academic purposes context</i> Elena Mattei, Eleonora Gallitelli <i>GenAI as task technology in the ESP classroom: a three-phase design for multimodal tourism literacy</i> ~~Zayneb Saadallah, Hicham Laabidi~~ ~~<i>Integrating AI literacy through task-based learning: insights from a Moroccan university English program</i>~~
16:00-16:30	Closing remarks (Room C, floor 0)	
	Sabrina Machetti, University for Foreigners of Siena <i>Rethinking language learning, teaching, assessment</i> Nick Saville, Secretary-general of ALTE and director of Thought Leadership, English for Cambridge University Press <i>Reimagining tasks at the heart of a transformative vision of language assessment</i> Letizia Cirillo, for the Scientific and Organising Committee	